

Just published,

A N
E S S A Y
O N
C R O O K E D N E S S,
O R
DISTORTIONS OF THE SPINE;
S H E W I N G
The Insufficiency of a Variety of Modes made Use of
for Relief in these Cases;
A N D
Proposing Methods, Easy, Safe, and more Effectual for the Com-
pletion of their Cures;
W I T H
S O M E H I N T S
For the Prevention of these Affections, and their Disagreeable,
Painful, and Dangerous Consequences,
ILLUSTRATED WITH
S E V E R A L C O P P E R P L A T E S,
TAKEN FROM DISTORTED SUBJECTS.
B Y
P H I L I P J O N E S,
O F C H A R L O T T E - S T R E E T , B E D F O R D - S Q U A R E .

'Tis better far to die, than crawl thro' life,
Diseases prey—deformed—and wretched.

ANONYMOUS



L O N D O N :

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7. *Antennaria* (L.) Benth. *Antennaria* (L.) Benth. *Antennaria* (L.) Benth.

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A D D R E S S

TO

T H E L A D I E S.

WHERE men have devoted their time to any particular science, or a part, wherein benefit is likely to accrue to his fellow-creatures, it becomes a duty indispensably necessary to make his knowledge as public as possible, that every person may have an opportunity of receiving advantage from his labours.—But when men publish their observations on these subjects in the common mode, such publications generally fall only into the hands of those, to whom information in that particular department becomes useful from pecuniary emolument, atten-

dant on such acquisitions. Indeed few others search after them; hence these improvements are only manifested to a very limited circle; and notwithstanding they are conveyed in such easy, and intelligible terms, divested of all technical phrases, as render them readily comprehensible to the commonest capacities; still such subjects not employing the attention, or scarce ever the reflection of by far the greatest part of mankind; from the great majority being incurious; many beneficial discoveries in science lie buried almost in oblivion.

Besides there lives another source which impedes the progress, and prevents such works from becoming so generally diffusive, as the utility oftentimes has a right to expect. Men practising any branch of an art, wherein they expect to derive to themselves any emolument, carefully conceal every effort of others, which they themselves are incapable of pursuing; and rather chuse to blunder on in an uncertain path, conducive to their own profit, than candidly confess a superiority in any mode, or attribute an excellence but to their own. It is for these reasons, perhaps, that the Essay on Crookedness and the means of remedying the malady, which I have published, appears not to be so generally known,

as the consequence of the subject seems to require; perhaps people may conjecture, as it belongs to medicine, the observations are conveyed in the pompous terms peculiarly appropriated to that art; such notions, however, are erroneous, the essay is written in an easy stile, the author's descriptions of the cause and modes of cure delivered in a language the most plain and simple; and the salutary effects of the proposed remedy, exemplified by a number of cases from the most indisputable authorities; attested by characters whose veracity stands unimpeached, and by men also of the first medical and surgical abilities; men who have had ocular proof of the efficacy of mechanic powers, applied in these diseases, for little assistance is necessary from the medic art.

I should not have made these observations, had I not found that many families, and boarding schools, where such a remedy has been much wished for, have not even heard of this invention, or knew that any book had been published on the subject. I am therefore stimulated, as well for the good of the community in general, as for my own private interest, to take every fair means to obviate the difficulties that are likely to prevent

what I have offered to the public, from becoming universally known; and have, on that account, adopted this mode of a circulatory address; annexing such opinions of the work, and utility of the invention, as will, I flatter myself, ensure the public attention, and occasion them to consider this attempt not unworthy their approbation, and recommend to their consideration, and nice examination, the labours of

Their most obedient,

obliged, and faithful servant.

P. JONES.

R E C O M -

RECOMMENDATION
FROM
JOHN HUNTER, ESQ.
SURGEON TO THE KING, LECTURER IN SURGERY, SUR-
GEON OF ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, F. R. S. &c.

“ I HAVE had many opportunities of seeing good effects from the application of Mr. Jones's stays and apparatus in cases of curvatures of the back bone; they will not, however, be proper in all cases, and even in those for which they are particularly adapted, great attention is necessary in the mode of using them. I consider Mr. Jones to be a very good judge both of the cases in which they will be proper, and the mode of applying them, and have reason to believe, that for his own sake, he would not chuse to apply them, unless he had considerable hopes of their proving useful.

*Leicester-Square,
August 7th, 1788.*

JOHN HUNTER.”

From the ANALYTICAL REVIEW, for July, 1788.

“ The author in this treatise recommends the application of a mechanical apparatus, invented by himself, with a view to remove or lessen those deformities which are occasioned by incurvations of the spine; and we must acknowledge, that the principles on which he does this, appear to be very rational, being founded on a due consideration of the circumstances of the complaint, and of the peculiar causes which produce it.

“ After enumerating the several causes of spinal deformity, as mentioned by the most celebrated writers, in

which he discovers a competent knowledge of the anatomical structure of the parts, and we may also say no inconsiderable acquaintance with medical books, he adds, that distortion may be considered as ' having a softness of the bones for the pre-disposing, and a pressure for the immediate cause.' He notices also the several methods which have been heretofore recommended to remedy crookedness, some of which are still in use, such as weights applied to the prominent parts of deformed subjects, the neck-swing, the screw-chair, the swinging dumb bells, and the usual pressure from stays, all which he reprobates, and we think very justly, as not only unequal to the removal of distortion, but as being likely, in most cases, to aggravate the evil. ' The general indication to be pursued in attempting the cure, must be' (to use our author's words) ' to counteract the bending force by diminishing the compression on the concave side of the curvature,' and this can, obviously, be done by no other means than by those which take off the superincumbent weight. Mr. Jones assures us, that his apparatus is so constructed as effectually to answer this important purpose; and though he has given no particular description of this mechanical contrivance, nor annexed any drawing of it, which might enable the reader to judge of its probable utility, yet the favourable report which is given of it in the course of the work, by different medical gentlemen of the most respectable characters, and the ample testimony of cases in which it has been advantageously applied, which is adduced, will fully justify us in recommending it to the particular attention of those who may be interested for persons labouring under this unhappy complaint.

" Mr. Jones, we find, is a stay-maker; and it was from the nature of his employment, he tells us, that he was first led to consider the subject of deformity. We cannot help remarking

remarking on this circumstance, that he seems likely, by his good sense and assiduity, to make amends for the injuries which we fear, through the prevalence of fashion, his more ignorant brethren have done to society, by the general absurd construction and bad application of that part of the female dress which is committed to their care.

G. *

From the IMPARTIAL REVIEW, for April 1788.

“ THE author of this ingenious essay follows the business of stay-making, which gave him frequent opportunities of observing distortions; he contrived various modes of relief; attended the anatomical lectures of the late Dr. Hunter, and at length found the methods which form the subject of the work before us, and of which, long experience, he tell us, has confirmed the utility.—The Essay is well and scientifically written; with the modesty becoming a man of real knowledge; and the rationality and success of his methods of cure supported by upwards of fifty cases, the particulars of which are given in the course of the work. He has met with the support of many of the Faculty, who greatly approve of his ingenuity, and frequently adopt his modes of cure. The Plates are, accurate and well engraved.”

From the ENGLISH REVIEW, for August 1788.

“ WE have formerly beheld with pleasure the ingenuity of a stay-maker in literary pursuits; and we now have the satisfaction to find a person of the same employment exercising his inventive genius on a mechanical subject. Mr.

Jones *

Jones's occupation had long afforded him an opportunity of seeing the human frame variously distorted. He was led to different kinds of contrivances to hide the defects of form from the observing eye, and to consider, the best way he could, the cause from which it originated. He ingenuously acknowledges that he long wandered in the dark, until one circumstance began to dissipate his ignorance, and convince him that distortions deduced their origin from incurvations of the spine. On attending a young lady who was deformed, in the presence of a surgeon, the latter elevated the patient by the head; and, in this attitude, Mr. Jones observed that her form became almost perfectly straight. He was then struck with the thought, that if she could be kept continually in this position till she grew, and consequently stronger, the blemish of her shape would be entirely removed. Various were the inventions he made use of, and were often attended with success; but, sensible of the disadvantage he laboured under in not being conversant with anatomical knowledge, he determined on attending the lectures of the late Dr. Hunter, and others, particularly with the view of learning the structure of the spine. This plan he immediately adopted; and the result was, the method of correcting distortions of the spine, which he now submits to the public.

“ Without detailing Mr. Jones's medical learning, which we must acknowledge is far more extensive than might be expected, we shall lay before our readers the opinion of this self-taught physiologist relative to the cause of distortion :

“ Of all the causes of distortions or curvatures of the spine, I consider the *mallities ossium*, or softness of the bone, as the most general and frequent. In this case it is possessed of great pliability, and will mould itself to

“ any

any form, or bend without breaking; which will be more or less, according to the weight it suspends, or sustains; therefore those in this state which support the greatest weight are always most bent; and indeed this cause is so common, that wherever we observe a curvature we may, for the most part, suppose the mollities existing as the pre-disposing cause.

Physiologists have taken great pains in order to discover the true cause of these appearances: Glyston says there is no defect of bony matter in these cases, but that it runs out of its proper direction, as in the spine it pushes beyond the edges of the vertebrae, &c. However, the most satisfactory hypothesis seems to be, that, in some part or other of life, from some constitutional disorder, there is a deficiency of ossific matter, whence the bones become soft, and thence, in consequence of pressure, they are distorted various ways, according to the direction of that pressure. Distortion, therefore, may be considered as having a softness of the bones, for the pre-disposing, and pressure for the more immediate cause.

Mr. Jones evinces no superficial acquaintance with the writings of Du Hamel, Mayis, Vacher, Turner, Astruc, and other eminent chirurgical authors; but with none of them are we better satisfied, on the subject of distortion, than his own observations; and, with respect to his practical treatment, it is our opinion that he excels the whole of them put together.

Mr. Jones declares himself explicitly against the use of the neck-swing, the screw-chair, and swinging the dumb bells. Of the first of these expedients he speaks in the following terms:

This is fixed to the top of the room at one end, and into the other is fastened the head of the child, suspending

ing

* ing the body by the chin and hind head. In this situa-
 * tion the child swings as long as it can bear it; but,
 * though the spine will appear straight while the child is
 * kept in that posture, it cannot continue so above ten or
 * fifteen minutes at one time; whence the spine soon falls
 * into the same state as before, and becomes often worse
 * from the violence of the operation, as it tends to strain
 * the ligaments and cartilages which unite the vertebræ,
 * particularly those of the neck, as they are the most
 * slender, and having the whole weight of the body hang-
 * ing to them; hence, instead of strengthening the parts,
 * or supporting them till nature can relieve their defects,
 * they are more enfeebled, and left in too debilitated state;
 * and I am persuaded many ladies to this practice may at-
 * tribute the occurrence of the disease; for, whether the
 * frame call for such an attempt or not, it is common to
 * make use of this swing. How preposterous! What can
 * we expect from placing a delicate frame, where the car-
 * tilages are already in too expanded, and the ligaments
 * in too relaxed a state, in this situation? Let common
 * sense determine.

" We need say no more in favour of Mr. Jones's per-
 formance than that it contains fifty-five cases of his method
 of treatment in distortions of the spine, accompanied with
 a number of testimonials of his success, and a variety of
 engravings."

From the MONTHLY REVIEW, for February 1789.

" The author of this Essay begins his preface with in-
 forming us by what means he, who follows the business
 of stay-making, became qualified to undertake the cure of
 a disease

a disease which had long puzzled the most eminent men of the faculty.

“ Having frequent opportunities of seeing the human body variously distorted, his invention was often exercised in contrivances to hide such defect from the observing eye: anxious to gain a competent knowledge of the natural form of the human structure, he attended anatomical lectures, especially those of the late Dr. William Hunter; by which means he became acquainted with the various parts of the body, particularly the spine; and after knowing its structure, action, and dependencies, and also the modes made use of in the animal œconomy for the formation of the bone, he at last contrived an apparatus, which successfully restores distortions of various kinds. What the contrivance is, he has not thought proper to publish, but if we may judge of its efficacy from the fifty-five cases which he hath given, it undoubtedly deserves the highest praise.

“ The plates are figures of several variously distorted trunks, which are referred to in the descriptions of the cases, and they seem such as many medical gentlemen would be apt to deem incurable.”

AFTER the book was gone to press, I received, among others, a letter from Mrs. L. (See the account of this young lady, in case xxxiv, in the book.) Also two letters from a lady, (recommended by Mr. Farquhar, Surgeon, Marlborough-Street) respecting her daughter, whose distortion of the spine was that of the common twist, in elevating the shoulder and hip, which always makes its appearance (as it is said) larger, as the spine is out of its center.

“ R. L. not having an opportunity of calling on Philip Jones as she intended; desires he will please to call, or send to William Arch's, for the spinal apparatus.

“ R. L. and her husband desire their friend Philip Jones to accept, though late, of their grateful acknowledgements for the great benefit their daughter has received from wearing his apparatus, for she is now perfectly restored; and they will be glad to recommend his apparatus wherever they think benefit will result from it, wishing his endeavours in this line may always be attended with equal success.”

London, May 23, 1788.

June 24th, 1788,

“ SIR,

“ I RECEIVED my daughter on Saturday last, and think myself much obliged by your great attention to her, during the short time she has been under your care; and I really think there is as much alteration in her shape, for the better, as I could possibly expect. About a month, or six weeks hence, I should wish you to see her; and I hope I shall be able to form a plan for your meeting her at Cambridge, that you will be able to accede to. I must beg leave to thank you, Sir, for your civility in instructing my maid; who speaks highly of your politeness on this occasion. My daughter begs her compliments.

“ I am, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant.”

“ SIR,

Nov. 20, 1788.

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE omitted to answer your letter which I received in October, longer than I intended, owing to numberless engagements, and my absence, part of the time, from home. I have the pleasure to tell you that my daughter has, upon the whole, been very attentive since you saw her; and I think the back-bone is quite straight, and the hips look perfectly even. The present instrument is within six notches of its full extent, but probably that may be as much as it may want more to be raised; but of this you are the best judge, and I shall hope to hear from you. Miss Lee, I hear, is very easy, and is much better. Miss P. desires her compliments, all my family desire respects to you.

“ I am, Sir, your very humble servant.”

As it is very evident that prodigious disadvantages and evil consequences accrue from distortions, and though the greatest number may be remedied by the simple apparatus I make use of, the application of which is not painful, neither confines a child from exercise; still prevention is infinitely more eligible than cures, however easy and certain; which may generally be accomplished by taking proper care of children in the early part of life, particularly in those who are of a weakly and delicate habit. Many of those, where distortion had threatened, have been prevented, and continue straight, healthy children, by different simple means which I have adapted, by keeping them in erect postures, and affording support to the spine, (the pillar of the body) such as they can bear with perfect ease, and will not impede activity, but give them an agreeable and graceful carriage; I therefore offer my service

vice to the public, to supply ladies with stays, &c. &c. &c. judiciously adapted, and made under my own inspection, occasionally renewed as necessity may point out, paying every attention, and visit them, at least, twice a month, for five guineas per annum.

Letter from Dr. HULME, respecting a young lady from a boarding-school at Halifax in Yorkshire, affected with the common twist, who came to London in April 1788, and is now perfectly straight.

“ Dr. HULME presents his compliments to Mr. Jones, and the Lady who waits upon him with this note is a particular friend of his, and he wishes him to weigh the case maturely which will be represented to him, and advise her what will be best to be done.”

Charter-House-Square,

May 2, 1788.

In September following arrived another young lady from the same school, from the governess of which I received the following letter :

Halifax, February 17, 1789.

“ S. I. R.,
“ I have the pleasure to inform you, that Miss P. appears to be perfectly even; and I never remember her enjoying so good a state of health as she has done this winter. The two young ladies, with my sister, beg to unite in compliments.

“ I am, Sir, your humble servant,

“ M. MELLIN,”

N. B. Wherever the health is impaired from the distortion, those pains in the different parts occasioning difficulty in respiration, &c. &c. is soon removed by the application of my apparatus.

Med H
WZ
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